

# Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman

## Live It Up High

That is to say, high up in the Penthouse Restaurant of the Hotel International out on Sepulveda Boulevard. High in height — not in price.

You'll go far to find a more tasty dinner than the one we had one night last week up there. "The Bride" had mountain trout and we stuck with the medallions of beef. Well you know how that goes — inter-spear-ing of one another's plates just for the different taste thrills — and from here can attest to the fine quality of this super-fine cuisine offered at the Penthouse Restaurant. And, of course, no meal is complete at the International without getting things started with the excellent shrimp cocktail with its zesty sauce. Supreme!

There's another quality that stands out at this popular "dinner house in the sky" and that's the service. Have always said (though it's not true at this spot) that even if the fare wasn't exactly up to snuff, if the service is good, one tends to overlook other shortcomings. But on the other hand, if the service is bad it's bound to leave you with a bad taste in your mouth irrespective of the quality of the culinary arts brought to your table.

So when you find the over-all picture combined, you are doubly satisfied and leave with



**SKIN DIVER . . .** But that's just his hobby. His main vocation is that of Hotel and Restaurant man, newly appointed general manager of the Pen and Quill Restaurant and Hotel in Manhattan Beach. He's long-time hotel executive, Harry B. Peterson.

a highly contented sensation within. Then on top of all this, all the recent rains greatly enhanced the view afforded from the Penthouse Lounge where the Satin Dolls are entertaining nightly for your dancing and listening pleasure.

These gifted gals are presenting anything you'd ever want-for in the music department. Something for everyone, you might say, be it jazz, rock (soft), country-western or pop tunes. And they do each category equally well on the piano, drums, and guitar. Very interesting sounds and with a blend of voices you'd not believe.

Her's a trio that could go places, as a bell with all that smog wetted down so nicely. Then by way of settling the stomach, stroll across to the Penthouse Lounge where the Satin Dolls are entertaining nightly for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Well, guess the Pen and Quill Hotel and Restaurant in Man-

hattan Beach is in for some new innovations with the recent appointment of long-time hotel man Harry B. Peterson as its general manager.

When Peterson first went into the business he started with John Mangini, president of this internationally known hotel, and is now back, once again reunited with his long time associate after 15 years.

Formerly associated with the Ben Franklin and Olympic Hotels, Mr. Peterson, an avid sportsman, is most excited about his new position which will enable him to pursue his favorite sport — that of skin diving.

The new innovations he has in mind will be announced at a later date.

Now here's one for either warm weather or our current chilly type stuff we've been getting.

It's the favorite native dish of Spain called Paella ala Valenciana and is still a crowd-pleaser at The Matador Restaurant. Owner-host Bill Fremont's specially served recipe consists of saffron rice cooked in chicken, shrimp, clams, and squid, and is served with assorted relishes and your choice of soup or salad.

The price for this delight is right, too — \$3.85.

That's quite an art gallery Len and Mike Pucci are building up over there at their busy little Wall Street West restaurant in the Union Bank building.

Len, as you probably know, is quite active in the Hall of Fame activities and these works of art, all beautifully framed, deal with just that subject.

But then, as Lennie always says, "I'm very big in Canton!" Anyway, must remember to do a "thing" one day soon on his art. Should make quite a yarn, if we could just nail these guys down for a few minutes but anytime you go in there they're always very tired from "breathing all day."

And now by way of bringing a little additional culture into your life, you might keep in mind the Columbia Celebrity series at the Music Center March 19.

At 8:30 on that evening William Steinberg will raise his bat-

on to conduct the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F major, Opus 68 (Pastorale) as the principal work of the concert. Also programmed is Tristan und Isolde, overture to Bizet and Beethoven's overture, Consecration of the House.

Tried the bouillabaisse, yet at Smith Bros. Indian Village Restaurant? It's delicious and going great guns over there on Pacific Coast Highway. Y'know, they've already got a fabulous fish menu but Manager Virginia Haack decided to add this to it.

It's a Friday nite special, this fish and shellfish stew, and goes off at the very special price of \$2.95. Included is some of the Indian Village's tasty garlic bread for "dipping" as if we all don't do it, secretly or otherwise!

Now this doesn't mean that you can't have bouillabaisse every nite 'cause you can but only on Friday 4 to 11 p.m. may you have it at the above price. Any other day it'll cost you a buck more.

Is it any wonder that Bob Schmitt behaves himself so well when we run into him these evenings at the Tea House. Know what his wife is? She's a certified psychologist, that's what she is and Sir Robert dare not even have wrong thoughts such as carrying matches in his pockets or chewing gum in public, for fear that mama, Gertrude J. Jackson, M.S. will find him out. Oh he's a sly one, that Bob!

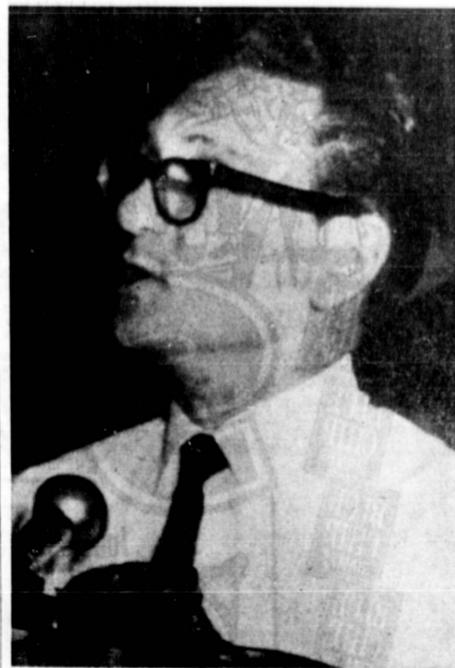
However, knowing Bob as we do, kind of have the idea that irrespective of what his better half did, he'd still be just the same guy, whiskers and all!

Anyway, according to genial manager, Ron Iwamoto, Bob's welcome at the Tea House anytime, he's that much of a gentleman, as are most of the folks that patronize this intimate and friendly little restaurant and cocktail lounge.

In addition to the excellent family style dining on Cantonese cuisine, plus the exotic cocktails available, there's entertainment nightly at the Tea House. Monday is Hawaiian Nite. Then Shigeo Maeda comes in to take over the piano Tuesday and Wednesday and for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday nite bit it's Calvin and Brien.

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